

ENERGY STREAMLINING TASK FORCE PROJECT SUMMARY

Name: Pinedale Anticline Natural Gas Exploration and Development Project

EP-3

Entity Proposing Project: Pinedale Anticline Operators (Western Organization of Resource Councils submitted comment)

Category of Project: Exploration & Production

Brief description of project: application for continued natural gas exploration and development of up to 900 wells where discoveries occur with goal to create 700 producing locations over next 10-15 years

Agencies that must be consulted and agencies from which approval is needed:

Federal: Army Corps of Engineers

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Forest Service

State: Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ)

State Historic Preservation Office

Wyoming Department of Transportation

Office of State Lands and Investment

Wyoming Oil & Gas Conservation Commission

Game & Fish Department

Project Timeline:

Pinedale Anticline Record of Decision issued by BLM – June 2000

Reasons for bringing project to the task force's attention: Issue #1 – ROD includes utilization of Adaptive Environmental Management (AEM) (coordinates all levels of government, tribes and interest groups in designation of management plan), although BLM noted in ROD that it, nor other coordinating agencies, have the necessary resources for monitoring under AEM and so bulk of monitoring costs will go to operators. Operators have been attending AEM Working Group meetings since June 2000 and made good-faith efforts to comply. Yates Petroleum, one of the operators, has since sued BLM regarding the AEM process. AEM management has been halted and there is no managerial oversight, leaving process open to litigation.

Suggested Solution: create a Natural Resources Investment Fund within the US Treasury, funded through a percentage of revenues from traditional onshore energy development enterprises over a specific time period to build fund; add matching funds from operators to investment funds and use this new source to fund planning, monitoring, habitat improvement and other mitigation activities in order to make the AEM process workable.

Issue #2: BLM specifies in ROD the Resource Protection Alternative to protect sensitive winter habitat, but has granted many extensions to drill requested by operators, which ignores resource protection intentions of ROD and NEPA.